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ALONZO L. KIMBER

1862-1920

By ANNE C. DICKSON

The Society lost one of its most loyal and enthusiastic supporters when Alonzo L. Kimber passed away in Chicago, on October 14th, 1920.

Born in Waverly, Illinois, January 5th, 1862, he was the son of Alonzo L. Kimber, formerly of Ohio, and Mary Cecilia Evans Kimber, born in Carrollton, Illinois. He attended the Waverly public school until the death of his father, in 1880, when he went into the Waverly bank, which he left in about a year to attend Brown's Business College, in Jacksonville, Illinois, from which he graduated. He then accepted a position in the Jacksonville National Bank, staying there for eleven years and leaving to take charge of a mercantile agency in Chicago. In a short time, he entered the Illinois Trust and Savings Bank of Chicago and spent the last twenty-four years of his life with that institution, being a trusted and valued member of the force.

On December 14th, 1893, he was married at Jacksonville to Margaret Hall of that city, who, with one daughter, Mary Cecilia, survives him. Two children died in infancy.

Mr. Kimber was a man of unusually high ideals, with a strong love for the beautiful and the highest expressions of art, literature and music. An inveterate reader of the best books, he was usually found to be immersed in some classic, during his leisure hours, and his collection of works pertaining to the history of Illinois is perhaps the best one owned by an individual. He was well known to the dealers in several cities, and enjoyed nothing more than the finding of some rare old musty tome telling of early days in the Prairie State. Masonry also appealed to him, and he was affiliated with Waverly Lodge No. 118. He was Eminent Commander of Jacksonville Commandery No. 31 Knights Templar in his 28th year, and also a member of the Chicago Temple of Shriners. The Masons conducted his funeral, held at Wav-

erly on October 16th, and the services in the beautiful, quiet cemetery there were impressive in their solemnity.

The members of the Society, which included many of his close friends, will miss his quiet appreciation of the best offerings, for he enjoyed the meetings and attended whenever it was possible for him to do so.

HON. EDWARD LIVINGSTON MERRITT

1836-1920

BY HENRY WILSON CLENDENIN

Few Illinois men of his day and generation lived as long and as active a life as a publicist as Hon. Edward L. Merritt, the subject of this sketch. He was born in New York City, June 25, 1836, and came to Illinois five years later with his father, Hon. John W. Merritt, a lawyer and a member of the law firm of O'Connor, Brady and Merritt. The Merritt family first settled on a farm near Lebanon, St. Clair county, and subsequently moved to Salem, Marion county.

It was during his life in Salem that Mr. Merritt began his study of public affairs. He had as tutors, beside his father, Judge Silas Bryan, father of William Jennings Bryan; William R. Morrison and other public men well versed in Illinois and national questions, and was well fitted when he came to Springfield in 1864 to publish and edit the Illinois State Register, to take his place as one of the leading journalists of the state. He was then in his twenty-eighth year. He continued with the State Register for thirteen years, or until 1877, when he sold the above newspaper to a company composed of Governor John M. Palmer and several other citizens of Springfield.

It was while identified with the State Register that Mr. Merritt became widely known throughout the state. He served as a member of the Democratic state central committee from the Springfield congressional district for twelve years, the greater part of the time as its secretary. A few years after he declined further service on the committee, he served as first assistant secretary of the Democratic national convention which nominated Governor Grover Cleveland of New York, for President of the United States, and also held the